



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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2 MARCH 1965

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1. Vietnam

There is so far no information on changes in Communist military dispositions which might constitute reactions to today's air strikes on North Vietnam. Intercepts indicate that North Vietnamese military units had been alerted to the possibility of air attacks several hours before the event. It cannot be determined whether this was based on specific information or on general apprehension over the increasing pace of US air action.

Communications intelligence shows continuing but gradual measures in southern China and in North Vietnam toward bettering air and coastal defense capabilities.

In reaction to this morning's air strike, Hanoi and Moscow radios accuse the US of new aggression. Moscow's domestic radio said that the US has cast aside "all legalistic pretenses based on the notorious doctrine of retaliation." The initial Chinese Communist domestic report recited the facts, and, in reporting US losses, suggested that "US imperialism" was "once again punished."

2. South Vietnam

Buddhist leaders continue to make equivocal public statements which couple calls for an end to the fratricidal strife with the suggestion that those preferring Communism go north and those preferring the "free nationalist ideology" come south.



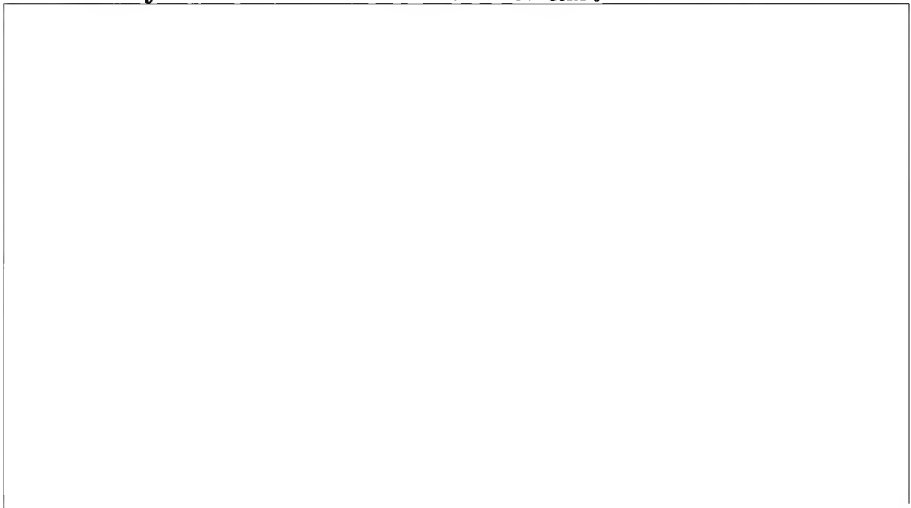
However, before today's action, Tri Quang and several Buddhist laymen said privately they hoped to see the air strikes on North Vietnam continue, as well as those on Viet Cong bases inside South Vietnam.

3. USSR

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V.S. Yemelyanov, Soviet representative at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, told the US representative last Saturday that "in his opinion" Moscow would "do anything possible" to "avoid conflict with the West." Yemelyanov--probably exaggerating to prove his point--claimed that Soviet economic problems were too acute, finances too weak, and the government organization insufficiently vigorous.

Yemelyanov is not regarded as an authoritative Soviet spokesman outside the nuclear field. In any event, his remarks do not exclude the possibility that Moscow may provide significant military aid to North Vietnam.

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4. Cyprus

The Turks are putting off their rotation of the Turkish military contingent on Cyprus, originally scheduled for tomorrow, until at least 20 March. This will help keep the persistent tensions simmering on the back burner for a while.

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5. UAR

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